

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A The frame assembly of claim 3A for an external fixation device for a bone having a longitudinal axis, the frame assembly comprising:

a first arc segment defining a plurality of teeth;

a second arc segment rotatably coupled to the first arc segment for controlled relative rotation about a rotation axis defined by the first and second arc segments, the first and second arc segments couplable to the bone for at least partially circumscribing the bone, such that the rotation axis is substantially parallel the longitudinal axis of the bone, wherein the first and second arc segments of the frame assembly are concentrically coupled and define an arcuate opening at the rotation axis for receiving the bone, wherein the first arc segment includes an arcuate extension slidably received in a cooperative recess of the second arc segment, wherein the extension and recess are generally T-shaped, and wherein the teeth are defined on the extension; and

a drive unit attached to the second arc segments for rotatably driving the second arc segment relative to the first arc segment about the rotation axis, the drive unit including a worm gear meshingly engaging the plurality of teeth.

5-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A The frame assembly of claim 8, for an external fixation device for a bone having a longitudinal axis, the frame assembly comprising:

a first arc segment defining a plurality of teeth, wherein the plurality of teeth are defined on an outer perimeter of the first arc segment;

a second arc segment rotatably coupled to the first arc segment for controlled relative rotation about a rotation axis defined by the first and second arc segments, the first and second arc segments couplable to the bone for at least partially circumscribing the bone, such that the rotation axis is substantially parallel the longitudinal axis of the bone, wherein the first and second arc segments of the frame assembly are concentrically coupled and define an arcuate opening at the rotation axis for receiving the bone; and

a drive unit attached to the second arc segments for rotatably driving the second arc segment relative to the first arc segment about the rotation axis, the drive unit including a worm gear meshingly engaging the plurality of teeth, wherein the worm gear is disposed in a peripheral groove defined by the second arc segment.

10. (Original) The frame assembly of claim 9, wherein the worm gear includes a threaded portion partially protruding through an opening of the second arc segment to engage the plurality of teeth.

11. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 7 9, wherein the drive unit includes a cover secured to the second arc segment.

12. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 7 9, wherein each of the first and second arc segments ~~define closed circles~~ are part of closed circles.

13. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 7 9, wherein the second arc segment is generally I-shaped.

14. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 7 9, wherein the first arc segment includes a plurality of apertures for interconnection with the external fixation device.

15-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The frame assembly of claim 7 9, wherein the rotation axis is substantially coincident with the longitudinal axis of the bone.

23. (Previously Presented) A frame assembly for an external fixation device for a bone having a longitudinal axis, the frame assembly comprising:

a first arc segment having a U-shaped portion and a T-shaped arcuate extension extending sideways from the U-shaped portion, the extension defining a plurality of teeth;

a second arc segment defining a T-shaped arcuate recess receiving the arcuate extension, the second arc segment rotatably coupled to the first arc segment for controlled relative rotation about a rotation axis defined by the first and second arc segments, the first and second arc segments couplable to the bone for at least partially circumscribing the bone, such that the rotation axis is substantially parallel the longitudinal axis of the bone wherein the first and second arc segments of the frame assembly are concentrically coupled and define an arcuate opening at the rotation axis for receiving the bone; and

a drive unit attached to the second arc segment for rotatably driving the second arc segment relative to the first arc segment about the rotation axis, the drive unit including a worm gear meshingly engaging the plurality of teeth, the worm gear received in an outer peripheral groove of the second arc segment.